1. (Amended) An intravascular catheter with an exchangeable shaft section, comprising:

a) an elongated tubular proximal shaft section having proximal and distal ends and a first inner lumen extending therein;

b) an elongated distal shaft section having proximal and distal ends, a port in the distal end of the distal shaft section, a second inner lumen extending therein in fluid communication with the first inner lumen in the proximal shaft section and a third inner lumen which is configured to slidably receive a guidewire and which extends therein to the port in the distal end of the distal shaft section; and

c) means to releasably [connect] interconnect the distal end of the proximal shaft section and the proximal end of the distal shaft section to effect fluid communication between the first and second inner lumens.

2 ~~3.~~ (Amended) The intravascular catheter of claim [2] 1 wherein an inflatable dilatation balloon is provided on the distal shaft section having an interior in fluid communication with the second inner lumen in the distal section.

3 ~~4.~~ (Amended) The intravascular catheter of claim 1 wherein the connector means includes male threads on an end of one of the shaft

sections and female threads on [an] a mating end of the other shaft section which are configured to threadably engage the male threads.

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~~5.~~ (Amended) The intravascular catheter of claim ~~2~~ wherein the tubular proximal shaft section includes an inner tubular member disposed therein which has a fourth inner lumen which is configured to slidably receive a guidewire therein and which is in communication with the third inner lumen in the distal shaft section.

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6 ~~7.~~ (Amended) A dilatation catheter with an exchangeable shaft section, comprising:

a) an elongated proximal shaft section having proximal and distal ends and an first inner lumen extending therein to the distal end;

b) an elongated distal shaft section having proximal and distal ends, a second inner lumen extending from the proximal end of the distal shaft section to a location spaced proximally from the distal end of the distal shaft section, a distal port in the distal end, a third inner lumen extending therein to and being in fluid communication with the distal port and being coextensive and parallel with at least part of the second inner lumen;

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c) means to releasably connect the distal end of the proximal shaft section to the proximal end of the distal shaft section to effect fluid communication between the first inner lumen of the proximal shaft section and the [third] second inner lumen of the distal shaft section; and

d) an inflatable dilatation balloon on the distal shaft section having an interior in fluid communication with the second inner lumen.

10 ~~11.~~ (Amended) A balloon catheter with an exchangeable shaft section, comprising:

a) an elongated proximal shaft section having proximal and distal ends and an first inner lumen extending therein to the distal end;

b) an elongated distal shaft section having proximal and distal ends, a second inner lumen extending from the proximal end of the distal shaft section to a location spaced proximally from the distal end of the distal shaft section, a distal port in the distal end of the distal shaft section, a third inner lumen extending within the distal shaft section to the distal port and a third inner lumen extending therein coextensive and parallel with at least part of the second inner lumen and being in fluid communication with the distal port;

c) means to releasably connect the distal end of the proximal shaft section and the proximal end of the distal shaft section to effect fluid communication between the first inner lumen of the proximal shaft section and the [third] second inner lumen of the distal shaft section; and

d) an inflatable balloon on the distal shaft section having an interior in fluid communication with the second inner lumen.

16. (Amended) A dilatation catheter comprising:

a) an elongated catheter shaft having a guidewire receiving inner lumen and an inflation lumen extending therein and proximal and distal ends;

b) a dilatation balloon having an interior in fluid communication with the inflation lumen extending within the catheter shaft;

[d]c) a proximal shaft section having proximal and distal ends and extending to a location proximal to the dilatation balloon; and

[e]d) a replaceable distal shaft section having a proximal end releaseably connected to the distal end of the proximal shaft section.

~~17.~~ 16. (Amended) An intravascular catheter comprising: